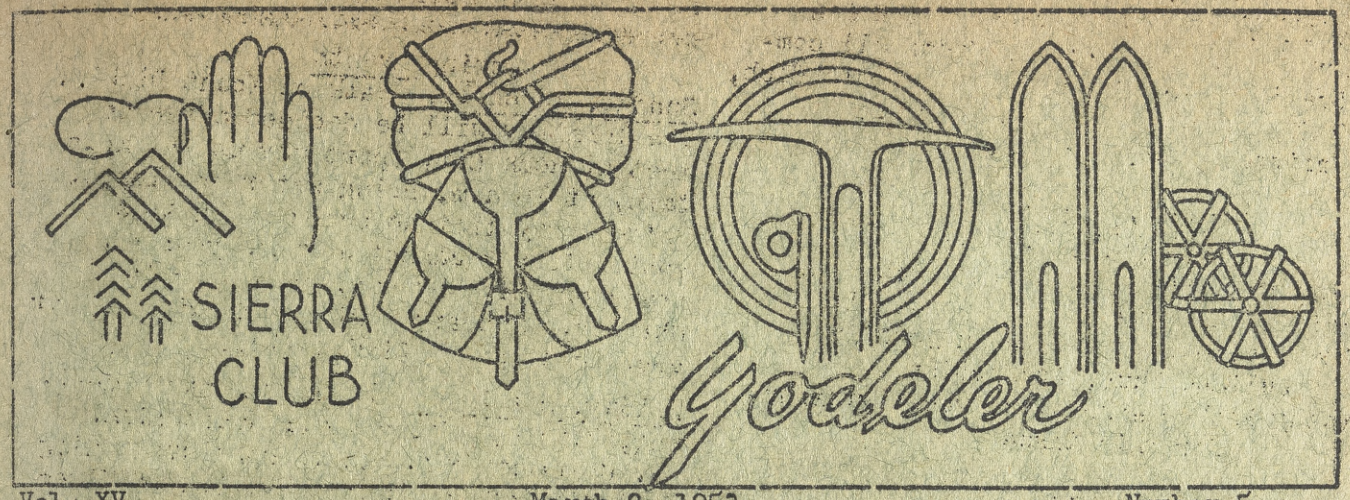


Vol. XV March 2, 1953 Number 5

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET

At the February meeting of the Board of Directors much attention was given to roads in both State and National Parks. The standard used in construction of roads in the National Parks has received careful study, and a report prepared by Alex Hildebrand and a committee of associated engineers was fully discussed. At present the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads builds the highways for the National Park Service. The sacrifice of scenic values on some national park roads which have been built to standards that provide long radius curves, very easy gradients, and permit excessive speed is well known to conservationists. The Hildebrand report sets forth clearly the maximum standards of radii and percentage gradients which the Sierra Club believes should be followed in National Parks when scenic and ecological values are at stake. The report was adopted by the Board after thorough discussion. We expect that further details will reach the membership later in special articles. State Senate Bill 69 giving the State Highway Commission the right to cut roads through State Parks was discussed, and a motion opposing this was adopted.

The Directors also voted to support bills creating a Green River Canyon National Park and one prohibiting dams in National Parks. They renewed their opposition to "licensed public hunting" in State Parks (State Senate Resolution 19). Any control needed to maintain a proper balance of wild life should be in the hands of State Park officials only.

The report on Uniform Chapter (cont.p.2)

KNAPSACK INSTRUCTION COURSE

Stand on the top of Tamalpais and shout to the four winds, so that all may know about the course. This is the opportunity you've been waiting for. Don't miss the chance this year!

We are giving a knapsacking course this spring to help all who have any doubts about knapsacking to get over the bumps that beset any beginner. Our definition of knapsacking is "How to travel light and still live comfortably from a packsack."

May we show you how to choose a pack, boots, clothes, sleeping bag, food, and a place to go? Only beginners and stubborn old-timers make fools of themselves on knapsack trips by carrying mountainous packs. We can considerably lighten the load on the beginner's back and mind with a few simple pointers.

If you see someone on a Local Walk carrying a full pack, offer to wipe the sweat from his brow and carry his pack a way. You'll find it easy to carry, because he is there to show you what can be done when one wants to travel light and still live like a king. Ask to see what is in his pack--it will open your eyes.

The course will be given Monday evenings from 8 to 10 p.m. in the Assembly Room on the third floor of Mills Tower. The meeting dates are March 30, April 6, April 20, April 27 and May 4.

There will be three beginners' hikes of gradually increasing difficulty. The first will be to Potrero Meadows, April 25-26, to familiarize neophytes with equipment and camp routine. The second trip will offer more chance to (cont.p.2)

FLASH!!! A presentation by Maurice Herzog, author of "Annapurna", at Geary Theatre, S.F., Friday, March 27. Sponsored by Sierra Club, American Alpine Club, and others. An opportunity to hear in person and see pictures by an outstanding mountaineer-autho

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Next Deadline:
Monday, March 16, 1953, 6 p.m.

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Directors (cont. p. 1) By-Laws was presented, making the meeting especially interesting to the many visitors. The Chairmen of seven out of eight California chapters were present and took part in the discussion. An opening statement by Francis Farquhar emphasized the excellent standing of the Club as a tax-free educational organization. Nothing must be done to impair this, and one of the objectives of the new uniform by-laws is the rearrangement of Chapter accounts to include a special revolving fund for all the expenses and receipts of social activities which are, of course, self-supporting.

The Board received with pleasure a report on a prospective new chapter, the tenth in the Club. This Tehipite Chapter will be centered in Fresno and will soon have enough members' signatures on its petition for recognition.

Approval was given for the Executive Director to attend meetings during March in Washington, D.C., of the National Resources Council, Wildlife Conference, Chief Foresters' Wilderness Meeting and Resources for the Future. --CMC

Knapsacking (cont. p. 1) try out your knapsack legs. The last will be to Desolation Valley, May 23-24. There we can really have a knapsack week end with campfire and all.

All trips are relatively easy. There'll be experienced knapsackers swarming all over to help with problems that arise when you have a pack on your back for the first time. Let's broadcast this course, so that all may learn the fundamentals of more complete enjoyment of our numerous wilderness areas. --Kyle D. Corson

NATURAL SCIENCE SECTION

Coming Events

Sunday, March 15. Walk on Mount Diablo. The locality will be decided after we meet at Rock City (part way up the mountain) at 10 a.m. Bring water for lunch. We're sorry that no buses reach this spot. If you cannot arrange your own transportation by car, phone Cicely Christy, AShberry 3-2159. We will do our best to help you find a ride.

Friday, March 20. Regular monthly meeting, 7:45 p.m. Mills Tower Auditorium. Mr. Charles Chesterman, Associate Mining Geologist of the State Division of Mines, will talk, with his own slides, on California jade and other associated rock minerals in this State. This will be a rock-hound's Paradise, but there will be plenty for the rest of us ordinary mortals to see, hear and enjoy in this lecture. (You miss important news by coming late, and the rest of us miss it in the confusion, too. So come on time!!)

Don't forget the "beating the bounds" Conservation Walk on March 8. It starts at Pan Toll at 9:30 a.m.

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The Lower Forms of Life did not emerge in great strength to be studied by the NSS in the walk from Pan Toll to Laurel Dell on February 15. The weather was too dry to encourage fungi, slime molds, and other moisture-loving plants. But we did find five of the twelve kinds of ferns listed in the Marin Flora, and two interesting allies of the ferns. The Selaginella looks like a sprawling moss on the damp rocks but is actually far more advanced towards the true flowering plant in its reproductive organs. The Isoetes Nutallii, found at Rock Spring, is a quillwort, aping the grasses above ground but bearing fern-type sporangia underground like clusters of tiny, very dirty pearls around the roots. The day was perfect, and the walk well arranged, thanks to Neva Snell.

Slide Mounting will be on Tuesday evening in the future, and for the next few weeks Wilfred and Alice Ward will be at home to any willing slide mounters every Tuesday from 7:15 to about 9:p.m. Their address is 280 Columbia Avenue, Berkeley, LAndscape 6-4176.. --CMC

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MOUNTAINEARS have been hard of hearing lately, but we did hear that Bill Colvig has just returned from [illegible]

BORED WITH THE OUT-OF-DOORS?

Do you feel bored with out-of-doors? Has the edge worn off of the physical satisfaction derived from strenuous exercise? If so, you need a revitalization of your mountain experiences with other activities, such as photography, shrub, flower, and tree identification, geology, and fishing.

Wouldn't it be more fun to watch for scenes to capture in black and white or color? Buy a camera and capture the moods and beauty of the outdoors which so please and intrigue you. Flowers, wild life, and scenery provide an inexhaustible source of pictures and enjoyment. Talking to competent shutterbugs will get you started toward many hours of future enjoyment.

There will be an Educational Committee program on the fundamentals of color photography May 5 at Everett Junior High School, S.F., 8 p.m., to offer a guiding hand to those who want to start taking pictures.

If photography is not your line, why not learn to identify plants which you meet on the trail? Time passes so rapidly when one is botanizing that the longest hike seems short and the heaviest pack seems light.

The Natural Science Section can help you learn the names of the plants if you go on their hikes. Also, U.C. Extension will give a course in plant identification, starting Tuesday, April 7. There will be eight meetings. Fee $9.00. Place: Room 224, Wheeler Hall, U.C. Time: 7-9 p.m. Identifying birds and animals requires alertness and patience, but the experience is rewarding. What is more fun than spying on quail, marmots, squirrels, deer, etc.? They often seem human.

Have you wondered about the wonders of the earth? Does the strength and inscrutability of the mountains fascinate you? Then why not become an amateur geologist? A study of rocks can open up a wide field of exploration. The wrinkles and folds of the earth can tell you much history. Why are mountains where they are and why do they look the way they do? Geology can provide hours of fun in the field and at home. The collection of rocks can break your back as you pack them home, but many stimulating hours can be spent later studying them.

Or try trout fishing. There is nothing like the thrill of having a fighting, slippery fish on the end of your line. Fishing is always good where Sierra Clubbers go, so there is no need to cast all day before you get a bite. Trout are a good supplement to mountain fare, and the equipment for obtaining them can be quite simple--a light pole, a reel, line, and hooks.

--Kyle D. Corson

PREVIEW COMING UP

A new season's preview has been set for April 18-19. It will be a party for knapsackers of all Sierra Club chapters in the state.

The dual purpose of the party will be to encourage greater interest and participation in knapsacking and contact more persons who might be interested in leading summer trips.

The program, at a location equally accessible to knapsackers from all parts of the state, will include an afternoon meeting of chapter representatives; a dinner for everyone attending; pictures and lectures on coming weekend and summer trips, and folk dancing.

Watch the Yodeler for further details.

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SPEAKERS WITH NO AUDIENCE

I hope you haven't forgotten us, the Speakers Bureau. We are willing and able to speak anywhere at anytime to anyone who will listen. Our repertoire includes conservation, club purposes, skiing, hiking, knapsacking, animal pack trips, travel in the Sierra Nevada or anywhere in the West. We have had requests from Boy Scouts, garden clubs, etc., but we would like to widen our scope of action, so that we may stimulate others to use and enjoy the mountains we hold so dear.

We would greatly appreciate every opportunity that you might know of for us to speak. May we hear from you soon? Please forward any requests to Kyle D. Corson, chairman Educational Committee, 2014 Sixth Street, Berkeley 2. AShberry 3-5189. --Kyle D. Corson

PEAR LAKE TOUR

Thirty-one Sierra Club skiers toured from Lake Wolverton to the Pear Lake Ski Hut in Sequoia National Park over the long February 22 week end and found good skiing on Alta Peak, the Tablelands and on the return trip, down from Heather Lake Pass. Sunny skies beamed down all three days, and the cool air was only a breeze except for a tigerish rampage Monday morning.

How two dozen people could warm cold fingers, cook, eat, and sleep in a hut designed with only ten bunks is a question only skiers can answer. Anyway, this cheerful crowd plus seven snow campers got fed in five separate commissary groups and enjoyed the trip. The new four-burner kerosene cook stove was supplemented by several tiny Primus stoves characteristically carried by Sierra Club mountaineers.

Despite advance reports of icy slopes and snow depths below normal, there was enough firm packed snow, lightly covered in many places with fresh powder delivered during the preceding week, to challenge ski technique and give rewarding thrills to schussers and slalomers.

Many of the party made the usual ski ascent of skiers' Alta Peak. Visibility was superb--peak beyond peak stood out clear and bold. In addition, three groups crossed the Tablelands and climbed Peak 11,600 above the headwaters of Deadman Canyon. This eminence, with its sheer eastern precipice, commanded a magnificent sweep of summits from Mt. Lyell, in Yosemite, to Mt. Whitney, to the Kaweahs and the jagged ramparts south of Mineral King, one of the most spectacular views in the Sierra.

Thanks go to Park Superintendent Scoyen and his rangers for reserving the hut, to the Sequoia Ski Club for stocking the hut with fuel, and canned goods which were drawn on to a limited extent. The leader was glad to hear many persons express their appreciation for a fine trip.

--Lewis Clark

Many readers will be sorry to hear of the death of Alan H. Critcher, past president of California Alpine Club and of California Conservation Club.

AN IMPORTANT SUGGESTION------To avoid missing the many excellent programs presented by the Educational Committee, circle the dates on your calendar when you get your Chapter Schedules.

DINOSAUR BY BOAT

Dr. Harold Bradley will show colored movies of his trip by boat for a distance of 90 miles down the Yampa and Green Rivers through Dinosaur National Monument, on Wednesday, March 25. This is some of the most beautiful canyon country if America. It is not at present easily approached by roads, and one can see it to best advantage, and in complete safety, by going down the rivers in a boat.

Dr. Bradley's son made such a trip the summer before last, and an account of his trip is in the Sierra Club Bulletin for December, 1952. Dr. Bradley's pictures are of a similar trip, taken last summer.

This National Monument is new and relatively inaccessible, and it has been seen by few people. As a result, it is in danger of being used as a dam site before most of us have a chance to see it or learn of its value as a scenic area.

Educational Committee Program on March 25, 8 p.m., Whittier School, Lincoln and Milvia Streets, Berkeley.

---H. D. Michener

RAQUETTEERS REPEAT

Snowshoers are waterproofing their boots again and trying to borrow tennis rackets from their friends to avoid Kelley's $3.00 rental charges. Snow camping in Desolation Valley is coming up on March 21 and 22.

Prospects, both those experienced from the Peter Grubb trip in February, and tyros should pay heed to the following equipment requirements. This is to be a snow camping expedition and more than the usual thermos of hot coffee will be needed for warmth and shelter. Snowshoers should have an air mattress lined up before calling the coordinators for reservations, as well as a half-interest in a primus stove, an extra pint of white gas for same, a mountain tent and two candles. The coordinators, Barbara Tilden, HUmboldt 3-9521, and Wes Bunnelle, SKyline 1-3584, are having trouble rounding up the essential equipment themselves, so get a line on some first.

Consultant weather man Kyle Corson promises a quarter-moon for the week end. Friday night will be spent in a private cabin near the road on lower Echo Lake. Saturday the trek to Lake of the Woods will get snowshoers off the beaten track and into white and wooded country. The

(Cont. page 6

FAIR WEATHER GEAR

Hark! The grass is turning green, the flowers are beginning to appear, the sun is shining more often, and the temperature has begun to climb to a tolerable level. What does that mean to you? To me it means it's time to dig out the knapsacking gear, blow off the dust, and check it for serviceability and missing items. Now is the time to decide what gear you need and where you are going to get that green stuff to buy it with.

We will attempt to give brief criteria for the selection of equipment to make knapsacking easy and fun. We don't know any easy way to get the green stuff to buy it with, but it's fun to dream and anticipate the day your ship will come in. This brief article is merely intended as a guide. For a more complete description of what and how to select equipment we strongly recommend that you purchase (Ouch! Here go a few more well-spent bucks) "Going Light With Backpack or Burro" and "Manual of Ski Mountaineering" from the Club office.

Knapsack equipment should be light, compact, and adequate for the demands placed on it. Gear that serves double duty is highly desirable. The bare essentials for knapsacking are a good pack, sturdy boots, a warm, compact and light sleeping bag, and a poncho-ground cloth. Some feel that they can't do without an air mattress, but leaves, needles, or the like are lighter, cheaper, and just as comfortable. Other gear such as cooking pots, grate, and clothes, can be anything you have on hand, as long as they are light and serviceable.

Knapsackers are inveterate experimenters. They have a basement full of gear that they have purchased to make packing easier or lighter, and then discarded as unnecessary. Don't be one of those extravagant people. Try everything before you buy and be sure it fills a real need. You can stay bankrupt trying to lighten your load by ounces.

Now let's get down to fundamentals. The proper selection of a pack is of vital importance for enjoyment of knapsacking. An ill-fitting pack leads to cumulative discomfort. Buy a pack that feels best to you - borrow one you desire, load it to the hilt, and carry it for a weekend before you buy. The army mountain pack (Bergen type) or the pack frame with sack (Trapper Nelson) are the most servicable. The Trapper Nelson distributes the load best, so that a slight forward lean takes the load from the shoulders and places it on the hips. The Trapper Nelson is best for the loads that must be carried on one-to two-week trips. The Bergen type pack is quite satisfactory for weekend trips, and there are outside pockets galore. Whatever you do, get a pack that is large enough to get everything inside where the load will be properly placed and where is will be protected from rain or shine. The Bergen will cost about $7.00, and the Trapper Nelson about $12 to $15. There is a sale on Bergens and 40-60 mummy bags at a surplus store on Market St., S.F. - See Wes Bunnelle for the name and address.

For restful and refreshing sleep, a good sleeping bag is a must(40% feather, 60% duck down). A mummy bag filled with 2 lbs. is adequate for the temperatures which are normally experienced. If it gets colder, wear more clothes to bed. A wool blanket sleeping bag (surplus) is heavy and cold. A mummy bag is the only type acceptable for knapsackers. Some people say that they can't stand the confines of such a close-fitting bag, but a few nights in the bag will cure any inhibitions. With a little practice the bag will roll with you at night. To keep the bag warm, sleep with your face out of the bag, so that the moisture in your breath won't condense inside the bag. Also, shake the bag each day to fluff the feathers and down, and hang the bag in the sun to air and dry each day. Stuff the bag into your knapsack rather than roll it into a tight roll, as the down won't be compressed as much when the bag is merely stuffed into the pack. It doesn't take any more space when stuffed into the pack. The cost of a good down bag will run from $30 to$40. Don't buy a bag made with reconditioned down, as you will be buying $40 worth of cold. Also, get a bag with baffle seam construction so that the cold can't seep through the seams. A cover for the bag may be taken to keep the bag clean.

(Continued on page 6)

(Cont. from page 4) hike will be about the same distance as Peter Grubb, and will probably cut a few less contour lines.

Bona fide prospects might do well to look in on the first snowshoe trip reunion, to be held Saturday night, March 14. Twenty photographers among twenty-two on the Peter Grubb trip will be displaying their kodachromes and black and whites. --WPB

(Cont. from page 5)

Boots cover the stubs that pound along the trail hour after hour, and day after day, so they should be carefully selected for fit and durability. 8" boots are adequate. They give sufficient ankle support and are light. Moccasin-type boots soon become loose and sloppy with wear, and the seams leak, so steer clear. Boots should be snug, but not tight. Fit them with a pair of thin cotton socks and heavy wool socks on your feet, and allow a little room for expansion of the feet with walking and the weight of a pack. Too tight or too loose boots cause blisters. To fit tight boots, stand in water until they are soaked, and then walk in them until they stretch to fit. Dry slowly at room temperature. Lug soles give the most traction. Have $\frac{1}{4}$" leather sole to mount lugs on and screw and glue the lugs to the boots. Black lugs last the longest. Some people prefer composition soles, and they are quite satisfactory except for a considerable loss in traction. A good boot will cost from $10 to $20, and can be resoled several times. I have worn one pair of boots for over 500 miles.

The proper care of boots is important to long life. Dry them slowly at room temperature when wet. Stuff them full of paper to dry them and maintain their shape when not in use. Keep them well oiled with a good boot grease. Don't use neatsfoot oil as it rots the thread. Wipe the dirt from the boots after each trip.

A poncho-ground-cloth is one of those items that does double duty for a knapsacker. It keeps his sleeping bag off the damp or cold ground, and it keeps rain off when on the trail. Get a rubberized-nylon one. Most ponchos are too small to cover a pack on your back and still reach to your knees, so you might consider it advisable to make your own. The material can be purchased at most sporting goods or surplus stores.

Well, there are the bare essentials to comfortable and adequate knapsacking, and they add up to a mere $70 or so for years of fun in the mountains. Can you think of a better investment?

--Kyle D. Corson

TOURING ISN'T ALL WORK!

Anticipating an early Spring season of small snow falls and not wanting to miss out on a chance to explore a northward route from highway 50 to the Barker Pass region before the snow all fades away, Bob Frenkel, Larry Williams and Paul Spring took advantage of apparent good weather on February 7 and 8 to undertake a ski tour down the Rubicon River valley. The valley run on skis starts at 8500 feet at the Mosquito Pass at north end of Devils Basin below Jack's Peak and continues to provide downhill running for 12 miles to Rubicon Springs at the 6000-foot level, which permits a descent of 2500 feet at a rate of 500 feet in one mile at the start to 500 feet in three miles near the end by Long Lake under Devils Peak.

One may not always find snow at 6000' in depth enough for ski touring over rocks and streams, but downhill running can still be managed in this region by staying up on the side of the valley slopes.

The trip began at 9:45 a.m. at Echo Lake, which was crossed with long gliding strides over the slightly roughed-up surface, followed by a 900-foot climb to Devils Basin. After a lunch stop at the base of Mosquito Pass, we made a short climb and were over the Pass and looking down into a long deep valley with wide open slopes for miles of downhill traveling. Tells Peak rose to the northwest, Twin Peak to the north, and nearby the spectacular peaks of the Crystal Range and Jack's and Dick's Peaks--all tower 10,000' or over. Saturday night we made camp two hours after sunset behind Tells Peak.

After an early start on Sunday, we reached Devils Peak near Long Lake for lunch. Low temperatures and high winds greeted us on the flat-topped ridge at Bear Lake on the way to Barker Meadow. With the aid of a head lamp we made our way to Tahoe Pines and hot coffee. We discussed the possible site for the Rolf Pundt hut and the need (cont. p. 7)

TAPPAAN TOPICS

Well, you missed it! The best snow of the season graced the slopes on the week end of February 28-March 1; ideal Spring skiing on Saturday and six inches of cold dry powder on Sunday. Forty lucky people who braved the pessimistic weather reports were at the Lodge to take full advantage of the snow. Moral: Weather reports and local conditions serve as a notoriously poor measure of conditions at the Summit. But take heart! A new storm is expected so all is not lost. After all, it snowed in Oakland!

Easter plans

An expected full-house at Easter, April 4-5 week end will take part in the traditional Spring hat contest and the races. Hats will parade at Easter Sunday breakfast and prizes include a free week end at the Lodge and free tow privileges. So bone up on Lily Dache's creations!

Hey, Buddy, gotta friend?

Bring him (or her) up to the Lodge for a weekend of skiing. Guests can be accommodated almost any week end, now for skiing, later for spring and summer hiking and relaxing. Winter rates are $1.20 per unit for guests, and guests must be accompanied by the member sponsoring them for the weekend. Members who would like to bring a small group to the Lodge may contact the Sierra Club Reservation Office, 1050 Mills Tower for information on available dates.

Ski Mountaineer Tests

IF weather permits and IF snow conditions permit, some of the ski mountaineering tests will be given on the snow camping trip to Desolation Valley on March 14-15. Contact the leader, Einar Nilsson, for further details. --WN

(cont.from p.5) for another hut near Tells Peak. For the Barker Pass Hut, Bear Lake was considered a good location. If only one more hut is planned in the chain, it should be closer to Echo Summit.

---Paul Spring

HOOD MOUNTAIN

Two chartered buses left the Greyhound Depot at 7:30 a.m., March 1. Arriving at our starting point in Sonoma County we were met by our leader, Lee Stopple, who owns a ranch in the neighborhood. It was a clear, sunny day; the sky blue, but the wind icy. Our route lay along a country road in the direction of Hood Mountain, which rises steeply from a level plain of agricultural land. We soon came to a ranch house, hidden among the fir trees at the foot of the mountain. Lee went inside and brought out Mr. Knowles, the owner of the ranchlands over which we hiked. He gave a cordial welcoming speech.

We began the gentle climb up the mountain, Lee doing his best to restrain the more enthusiastic members of the party, so that we would not get to the top before lunchtime.

Before the last stretch, the dirt road gave out, and we pushed our way through the manzanita on a narrow trail. From the top of the mountain there was a magnificent view in all directions. We could see the Bay Bridge, Mt. Tamalpais and Mt. Diablo, rows of hills and bright green valleys cut up into fields, and orchards with straight rows of trees. By this time, a few threatening clouds had gathered, and the contrast of light and shade added to the beauty of the landscape.

Putting an educational touch on the trip, Dick Monges unpacked his huge rucksack and displayed his knapsacking equipment, including everything from sleeping bag to egg container, to show what can be packed on a trip.

After lunch we hiked down the mountain by a different trail, stopping frequently to admire the view and the wild flowers. Lee told us some interesting facts about the history of the region, and the early American, English, Spanish, and Russian settlers.

While we were waiting for the busses for the return trip to San Francisco, snow began to fall, and everyone rushed for shelter, giving the hike a rather cold ending. --Helen Kemnitzer